

Denison Land Conveyance The NEPA Process

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Section 102 of the NEPA requires Federal agencies to incorporate environmental considerations in their planning and decision-making process through a systematic interdisciplinary approach. Specifically, Federal agencies are to assess the environmental impacts of and alternatives to major federal actions significantly affecting the environment. Actions are classified as one of the following:

- Categorically Excluded, no evaluations required for routine actions
- Finding of No Significant Impact (as identified in an Environmental Assessment)
- Finding of Significant Impact (as identified in an Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision)

NEPA Process

An environmental impact statement includes the following:

1. Scoping of issues, including:

- Early coordination with federal, state and local agencies
- Early public involvement in all aspects of evaluations

2. Identification of existing environmental conditions, such as:

- Environmental quality, including air, water, soils
- Social and socioeconomic conditions
- Natural resources, including fish, wildlife, and plants
- Endangered and threatened species
- Historical and cultural resources, including archeological materials
- Initial assessment for any hazardous, toxic, or radiological wastes

3. Identification of future changes in environmental conditions without the proposed Federal action, including:

- Determination of changes expected to occur without the proposed Federal action
- Inclusion of all environmental conditions

4. Identification of future changes in environmental conditions for the proposed actions, including:

- Determination of changes (impacts) expected to occur as a result of the action
- Identification of significant changes (impacts), if any

5. Public and agency review and comment, including:

- Early scoping with public and agencies
- Consultation with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies
- Public and agency review and comment on draft document
- Comment on final decisions

Scoping Process

The scoping process is a method of soliciting suggestions, comments, and questions about potential actions. Scoping is started early in the NEPA process and continues throughout the entire analysis, evaluation, and decision making process. The Federal agency sponsors public workshops and publishes written notices to inform the public and other agencies about the NEPA process being conducted for proposed actions. The public is invited to comment on alternatives to the action as well as on possible environmental consequences of that action. For the Denison Land Conveyance, an open house is being held in September 2008 as part of the scoping process. Personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have mailed notices regarding the evaluation to federal, state and local agencies and to those persons who have expressed interest in the study. Based on information collected during this scoping process, the Corps will develop a draft document that identifies impacts, including those deemed significant. The draft document will be made available for public review and comment, and meetings or workshops will be held to discuss the draft document, if warranted.

Point of Contact

The Corps is preparing a draft environmental impact statement for Denison Land Conveyance and will include all public comments, questions, and agency responses received. Comments and questions on the study may be submitted at the public involvement open house to be held September 11th 2008, or forwarded to:

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Comments received by October 14th, 2008 will be used to focus the Environmental Impact Statement.